

## JOINT CHIEFS URGE MISSILE DEFENSE

### Protective System Sought for 50 Large Cities

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The Defense Department said today that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had recommended heavy protection against missiles for 50 of the largest cities in the United States.

"I am authorized to say that if you take the latest almanac, most of the 50 most populous cities are included on the list," a Pentagon spokesman said.

"But," he added, "the list is an arbitrary one. If we actually move into such a deployment, there undoubtedly would be some changes."

The number of cities on the chiefs' list was first reported in The Washington Evening Star. The Pentagon declined to release the list, but The Star said the cities included New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, Baltimore, Washington, St. Louis, San Francisco, Dallas, San Diego, Seattle, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Mo., Phoenix, Ariz., Portland, Ore., Norfolk, Va. and Honolulu.

#### McNamara Opposed

Qualified sources said the Joint Chiefs had proposed, over the opposition of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, a multistaged deployment of the Nike-X antimissile system.

It would start with a "thin" area defense around the entire country, sufficient to intercept a modest attack from China or Russia, and a heavier defense around Minuteman missile sites.

The area defense would be provided by Spartan (formerly called Zeus) missiles, which are designed to intercept attacking missiles hundreds of miles from the United States. Sprint missiles, with shorter range but faster acceleration, would be deployed close to Minuteman sites to protect them against any missiles that penetrated the Spartan screen.

The area defense would cost about \$3.5-billion, and \$1.5-billion more would provide the extra Minuteman protection, sources said.

Next the military men would expand the system to add Sprint missiles around 25 cities, for roughly \$5-billion more, and then expand to another 25 cities, for \$10-billion additional.

#### \$20-Billion Plus \$2-Billion

The total price for the full defense would run to about \$20-billion, with about \$2-billion more for improved bomber defense and fallout shelters.

Mr. McNamara has told Congress that he opposes such a costly Nike-X deployment. His argument is that even if the Soviet Union did not react by building large numbers of additional long-range missiles it could still kill 20 million to 40 million Americans in an all-out attack.

Further, if the Soviet chose to build compensating numbers of international ballistic missiles as Mr. McNamara considers likely, the fatalities could mount to 120 million, he said.

As for the ultimate cost of a large Nike-X system, Mr. McNamara said that once the proposed list of cities to get extra protection was published, enormous political pressures would be generated to add others. This likely would raise the total expenditure to about \$40-billion, he said.

The Administration's policy, therefore, is to try to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to a mutual freeze of antimissile deployments. Failing that, the Administration has included in its new budget a request for \$377-million in standby funds for a possible start on a limited antimissile deployment, with emphasis on protecting the Minuteman force.

#### 'Building Block' Concept

Top officials say that although a final decision has not yet been made, should talks with the Russians collapse, the Administration is thinking in terms of a \$1-billion to \$5-billion Nike-X system that would provide both Minuteman protection plus a "thin" countrywide area of defense.

Other sources say that the system is designed on a "building block" concept that makes even the "thin" deployment susceptible to later expansion to provide city protection as well.

The Washington Star story, by its military reporter, Richard Fryklund, said that at least one city that was not among the 50 most populous was nevertheless included on the Joint Chief's list. That is Charleston, S. C., the home of a Polaris submarine base.

The story said that Omaha, Neb., which ranked 42d in size in the 1960 census, did not make the Chief's list even though it is headquarters for the Strategic Air Command.

Pentagon sources noted, however, that Omaha would presumably be covered by the Missile defense protecting the Minuteman force.

The Joint Chiefs have long advocated a large missile defense on the basis of two principal arguments.

First, they contend that the system would improve the prospects of keeping the peace by lessening the chances that the Soviet Union, with a growing force of both offensive and defensive missiles, might miscalculate its prospects of knocking out the United States in one surprise blow.

Second, they argue that if deterrence failed, a missile defense would limit death and destruction and increase the nation's chances of survival.